The War Paper for Women.

# VOTES FOR WOMEN

OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE UNITED SUFFRAGISTS

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### DEDICATION

**To the brave women who to-day are fighting for freedom: to the noble women who all down the ages kept the flag flying and looked forward to this day without seeing it: to all women all over the world, of whatever race, or creed, or calling, whether they be with us or against us in this fight, we dedicate this paper.**

## THE OUTLOOK

Our readers will find on page 180 a statement signed by the Executive Committee of the United Suffragists, giving reasons for a widening of the Suffrage demand. Since the U.S. Council Meeting of last February the Society's claim has been for women to be enfranchised "on an equal democratic basis with men." The exigencies of the political situation have now led to a definition of this demand as a claim for the enfranchisement of every woman and man, irrespective of any of the existing qualifications for the vote. It is held that these qualifications, at the present moment, threaten to provide the Government with an excuse for excluding women from any measure that may be devised to secure the votes of men who have become disfranchised by the war. Our new demand, which we, as the organ of the United Suffragists, now make, seems to us the only means of safeguarding the woman's vote in the extraordinarily complicated situation that has arisen over the question of Registration Reform.

### The Deputation to Mr. Asquith

As we go to press, Mr. Asquith's promised statement to the House of Commons, on the Government's intentions in this matter, has not been made; and the Suffrage Deputation, of which details will be found on another page, is therefore holding itself in readiness to repeat, if necessary, its request for an interview with the Minister or Ministers in charge of the proposed Bill. The prevailing belief is, so difficult has it been found to safeguard the votes of soldiers and sailors on the basis of the present Register, that the Government will merely propose the extension of the present Parliament (which would otherwise come to an end in September), with perhaps a clause to enable the old Register to be brought up to date. With or without this clause such a measure will scarcely satisfy those who are insisting on a military and naval Service franchise, and will at best only put off the inevitable reform of the Register which has been rendered more urgent than ever by the war. We feel emphatically that the time has come for Suffragists to take a broad democratic view of the matter, and to make it clear to the Government that women, at all events, regard the old franchise laws as hopelessly out of date, and believe that the only way to make Parliament representative of Great Britain after the war, and worthy of its self-governing Dominions, is to get rid at once of the crusted franchise complexities which now render it unrepresentative even of the men of the country.

### Women and the Irish Settlement

As we write this the Irish question still remains unsettled, and we heartily regret the resignation from the Cabinet of so strong a Suffragist as Lord Selborne at this critical moment in Ireland's history. In pressing upon the Prime Minister and Mr. Lloyd George the claims of women to be included in the new scheme of government, we remind them of the fact that the two extremist parties in Ireland—the Ulster Unionists and the Sinn Feiners—equally abolished the sex disability from their provisional Constitutions. In a fine peroration to his statement in the House of Commons on May 25, Mr. Asquith, referring to the sacrifices made by Irishmen at the Front, asked if the prospect could be tolerated, when the War came to an end, of seeing Irishmen "arrayed against one another in the most tragic and the most debasing of all conflicts—internecine domestic strife?" He added:—

> The thought is inconceivable. . . It would be a confession of bankruptcy, not only of statesmanship, but of patriotism.

Every word of this is applicable to Irish women. If "internecine domestic strife" is to be avoided in Ireland, the exclusion from the Irish settlement of women, who suffer and work at home while their men are fighting for the Empire abroad, must be regarded also as "inconceivable."

### Women and the Insurance Act

Mr. Roberts' defence of the Government, in the House of Commons on June 20, with respect to the women's side of the working of the Insurance Act, offers an instance of the way women's matters are dealt with by a Parliament that is not responsible to women, and therefore treats them alternately with unfairness and sentimentalism, extremes of attitude that are both based on want of knowledge. The provision made under the Act for women's sickness and maternity benefit has fallen short by £170,000 (but for better conditions in 1915 it would have been by £675,000), owing to the actuaries having based their estimate upon a rate of sickness similar to that of men, whereas it is, of course, very much higher. It seems, however, that the actuaries did propose at the time to allow a margin of 24 per cent. more sickness than men, but this estimate was rejected by the Government; and here is Mr. Roberts' justification for their action:—

> Before the House blames the Government for that, I would ask Hon. Members to recollect what the conditions were in 1911. In that year an agitation was raging in the country which, I think, would have fixed hold of any proposal to differentiate between men and women as a gross injustice. There were no facts available to justify such a differentiation . . . and I think, if the Government had decided to treat the women with far less liberality and generosity than men, and if such a proposal had been brought down to the House of Commons, I do not think it would have survived an afternoon's discussion.

Several comments might be made on this enlightening passage: we will content ourselves here with the obvious one that if a vigorous agitation for votes can prevent a Government from lowering its sickness benefits to women, how much more could the actual possession of the vote achieve for women's interests!

### Munition Workers' Wages

Just a year ago Mr. Lloyd George promised a women's deputation that women working on munitions should receive "a fair wage and a fixed minimum." That promise has not been carried into effect. As we have pointed out before, the £1 a week minimum, accorded by circular L2 to all women engaged on work formerly done by men, is far too low in view of the rise in the cost of living; it can be evaded by any unscrupulous employer by the simple device of slightly changing the character of the work; and in any case, it leaves out the thousands of women who are not even supposed to be on men's work. There are numberless instances of women and girls who are receiving less than £1 a week, even when engaged on night work. Most of the organised bodies of women demand a minimum of 5d. an hour for all women engaged on war work; and this is the very least that should be granted to these women, who are wearing themselves out in the service of the country. And it should be clearly understood that it stands for a minimum, not a maximum wage.

### War Prices

The Board of Trade has missed an opportunity in not appointing more women to the Committee whose business it is to enquire into the alarming rise in the cost of living. (This went up 2½ per cent. during May, and is now 59 per cent. higher than at the beginning of the war.) The choice of Mrs. Pember Reeves is an excellent one, but such a Committee will scarcely arrive at the beginning of the evil unless it takes into its councils many more like her, as well as women who are in even closer touch with, and actually live among, the poor. We should like to see Mrs. Barton, of the Women's Co-operative Guild (holding its Parliament as we go to press), on the Committee, to say nothing of Miss Anna Martin, who is so familiar with the housewives of Rotherhithe, and Miss Sylvia Pankhurst, who knows as much about those of Bow and Poplar. It is to be hoped that the findings of the Committee will include a condemnation of the comfortable and prevailing belief that higher wages compensate for higher prices. Old Age pensioners still have only 5s. a week on which to starve to death; the majority of women workers, and large numbers of unskilled men, are still paid wages that are in no way commensurate with the rise in prices; and as for those who are enjoying an increase of income—well, as the *Manchester Guardian* says, "it is not a very good reward for them if by working much harder than usual they can just make as good a living as usual." Those of us who look ahead see a time coming when the war workers of to-day, both men and women, will need savings to fall back upon if they are to recuperate their

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…ealth and be of any further use to …n.

**Decline of the Birth-rate**

We regret that lack of space prevents our dealing with the very important Report, just issued in book form by Messrs. Chapman and Hall (price half a guinea), of the National Commission appointed with Parliamentary sanction in 1914 by the National Council of Public Morals, to enquire into the alleged decline of the birth-rate. We commend it to our readers as being worth the study of every Suffragist, especially the valuable Addition signed by some of the Commissioners, and the still more valuable minutes of evidence. This is a matter so intensely vital to the position of women that the presence of only six women on a Commission of forty-one members seems to us to render its findings of less value than they otherwise would have been; but this does not apply to the evidence given before them, which should be carefully studied. On the general question, Lady Selborne's letter in the *Times* (June 24) sheds a welcome ray of light. Giving figures to show the steady rise in the birth-rate of Australia and New Zealand in 1911-1913 (when it was falling elsewhere), she goes on to talk of the £5 maternity benefit granted in Australia, and says:—

> There are two theories, either of which may be held. One that the production and nurture of children is entirely the affair of the individual parents. In that case no one should object if the parents choose to l… their families. The other … that it is a na… nal concern, and that we are …l interested in the future of our race and our …ation. In that case should we not be prepared to …ear some share of the burden of the support of …he children, when necessary, as our Australian …kinsfolk have done?

Lady Selborne is a good Suffragist, and the inference to be drawn from her allusion to a State where women have votes is obvious.

**The Working Woman's Medal**

It is a matter of congratulation for everyone … the bravery and devotion of women under … now recognised by their being made … the Military Medal. A fitting accompaniment to this timely recognition of women's services at the Front would be the equal recognition of their bravery and devotion in the far less glorious but equally dangerous and even more essential service of motherhood at home. It our readers are in any doubt as to the truth of this comparison, let them carefully study Miss Anna Martin's brilliant series of five articles on the terrible position of the working-class mother, rendered far more terrible by recent legislation in which she, as a voteless woman, has had no voice. These articles, entitled "The Toad Under the Harrow," began in our March number, and are concluded in this issue. We think no one, reading this series straight through (they can be sent post free for 7½d.), could fail to demand for all women the Mother's Medal, that is, the Vote.

**Items of Interest**

Major H. J. Gillespie, R.F.A., Hon. Treasurer of the United Suffragists, was mentioned for "gallantry in the field" in General Sir Douglas Haig's dispatch, published in the Press on June 16.

We understand that a Referendum of electors is to be taken in British Columbia, on the matter of enfranchising women, as well as soldiers, in the proposed amendment to the Elections Act. If this is successful, women will be able to vote after January 1, 1917.

The new Bishop of Peterborough, the Rev. F. T. Woods, is, we understand, a sound Suffragist.

The United Free Church Assembly in its Edinburgh meeting passed a recommendation for the election of women as deacons, subject to the approval of the minister and the Kirk Session.

We are asked to announce that a preacher well known for his Suffragist opinions, the Rev. J. Fort Newton, D.Litt., of Iowa, begins a month's ministry at the City Temple on Sunday, July 2. Services are at 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.

A woman doctor has been appointed assistant resident medical officer at Brownlow Institution, Liverpool.

Miss Dorothy Dufton, of Girton College, has been awarded by the Royal Society the first year's income of their Lawrence Fund, for an investigation of pneumonia produced by poisonous gases.

Birmingham municipality is ahead of the Home Office, for the Watch Committee has licensed women as taxicab drivers. Women, paid at the same rates as men, are also engag in tar-spraying the streets in this city.

"Women are making superb records," says Lady Randolph Churchill in the *New York Times*. "It is my opinion that after the war women will be given the vote without much opposition."

# WOMAN SUFFRAGE AND THE EMPIRE

## The Empire as Commonwealth—How Woman Suffrage Can Realise This Ideal—Great Imperial Suffrage Conference in London

The Prime Minister, in a speech made to his constituents at Ladybank on June 14, said: "When the war comes to an end, when the reign of peace is re-established, we shall have to take stock, as an Empire, of our internal relations."

Proceeding, he enumerated the fine services rendered, and sacrifices made, by the men from Overseas, who had come to fight the Empire's battles, and added—

> With such an Imperial record it will never be possible, in my judgment, to revert to our old methods of counsel and of government. The fabric of the Empire will have to be refashioned and the relations, not only between Great Britain and Ireland, but between the United Kingdom and our Dominions will of necessity be brought, and brought promptly, under close and connected review. Such, at least, is my own opinion, and I respectfully commend this consideration to my countrymen, both in this island and in Ireland.

**"The Future Government of the Empire"**

In Mr. Lloyd George's published proposals for the settlement of Ireland, Clause 5 runs thus:

> Immediately after the war an Imperial conference of representatives from all the Dominions of the Empire to be held to consider the future government of the Empire, including the question of the government of Ireland.

**Press Comments**

The *Nation* (June 17) comments thus upon these two statements:—

> Side by side with these older constitutional problems we would place the political emancipation of women. That also is an international idea, and our adoption of it may set the model for Europe. An exhausting war is commonly followed by a world-wide period of reaction. It lies with our will to break that tradition.

And again, in the same leading article:—

> The United Kingdom, if it is to take its place side by side with the Dominions, as the greatest unit in a federal empire, must acquire a constitution somewhat similar to theirs. That raises, not merely the question of devolution, and the provision for Wales and Scotland of some measure of Home Rule, but also the question of the Upper House; and each of these questions includes, both for men and women, a franchise issue.

Even the *Times* (June 15) admits that "the fabric of Empire will have to be refashioned," though it refrains from mentioning women's place in the refashioning.

**Our Conclusions**

We fully share, as Suffragists, this fine, broad conception of the Empire as a great Commonwealth, a model for the governments of the world. But we agree profoundly with the *Nation* that this ideal will not be realised without the co-operation of women. The enfranchisement of women, whose war service record will be acknowledged by all to stand as high as the men's record so justly acclaimed by the Prime Minister, must necessarily form part of the reconstruction, as an Imperial Commonwealth, of an Empire in which some millions of women Overseas already vote on an equality with men, and other millions, both at home and Overseas, are still working for their enfranchisement. And the new demand of Suffragists for the democratisation of the franchise in Great Britain will bind more closely than ever before the fully enfranchised women of the Dominions Overseas with those British women who are still struggling for freedom.

**Women's Imperial Conference**

With all these new ideals of Empire in the air, the biennial Conference summoned to meet in London on July 5, 6, and 7 by the British Dominions Woman Suffrage Union, acquires a new significance and a new importance. Thirteen British Suffrage Societies are taking part in it (including the United Suffragists), and delegates and representatives will be present from many of the following women's organisations in the Dominions which are either affiliated to, or in warm sympathy with, the B.D.W.S.U.:—

**Australia:**—Women's Political Association of Victoria; Women's Political Association of South Australia; Women's Service Guild of West Australia; Women's Liberal League of New South Wales; Queensland Women's Electoral League, and others.

**New Zealand:**—Women's Christian Temperance Union; Canterbury Women's Institute.

**South Africa:** — Women's Enfranchisement League of Cape Province; Women's Enfranchisement Association of the Union of South Africa.

**Canada:**—National Equal Franchise Union; Women's Political Education League of Manitoba; Canadian National Union.

**PROGRAMME OF THE CONFERENCE**

**July 5; 11.30 a.m.—"Loss of Nationality through Marriage."** Mrs. Ford-Smith, Miss C. Macmillan, Miss L. Nettlefold, and others.

**Overseas Suffrage Meeting; 2.30 p.m.**—Mrs. Pethick Lawrence (Chair), Mrs. Beamish Lane (South Africa), and others.

**July 6; 10 a.m. and 2 p.m.—"Sex Morality and Sex Education."**—Miss Neilans, Miss Royden, Miss Evelyn Sharp, Miss Norah March, B.Sc., Dr. Barbara Tchaykovsky, Rev. Dr. Scott Lidgett, Miss Abadam, Mr. Maurice Gregory.

**An Evening on India; 8 p.m.** — Lady Muir-Mackenzie (Chair), Sir Krishna Gupta, K.C.S.I., and others.

**July 7; 10 a.m., and 2 p.m. —"Economic Position of Women and Children."** Mrs. Pember Reeves (Chair), Miss Margaret Ashton, Miss Anna Martin, Mrs. Despard, and representatives from the Workers' Suffrage Federation, Women's Co-Operative Guild, Women's Labour League, National Federation of Women Workers.

**Public Suffrage Meeting; 7.30 p.m.**—(See back page of this issue.)

All the above meetings will be held in the Large Central Hall, Westminster (near Westminster Hospital). Tickets for the Conference, 2s. 6d. (all three days), or 1s. (single day), *exclusive of evenings*. Tickets for "Evening on India," 2s., 1s., and 6d.; for Public Suffrage Meeting, 2s., 1s., 6d. —to be obtained, with detailed programme of Conference, from the Hon. Sec., United Suffragists, 27, Chancery Lane, W.C.; the International Suffrage Shop, 5, Duke Street, Charing Cross; and Miss D. Pethick, 39, Meadway Court, Golder's Green.

**SOCIAL EVENTS**

Among the social events of interest during the week will be visits to the different Suffrage Societies (including the U.S. offices and Women's Club), an At Home given by the Workers' Suffrage Federation; and Mrs. Despard's Birthday Party given by the Women's Freedom League. Mrs. Hertha Ayrton is most kindly entertaining the Overseas delegates and the Executive of the United Suffragists (of whom she is a Vice-President) at her house, the week before.

**An Empire Suffrage Poster Parade**

But what is of greatest importance to Suffragists is that Suffrage Societies are co-operating with the B.D.W.S.U. in the Public Suffrage Meeting on July 7, and in a poster parade advertising this meeting, which will take place on Thursday afternoon, July 6, and Friday morning, July 7, the chief feature of which will be its indication that Suffragists stand for "Woman Suffrage and the Empire." All U.S. members ready to take part in this Empire Suffrage Poster Parade are asked to communicate at once with Miss Brewster at 27, Chancery Lane, W.C.

# COMPARISON OF PUNISHMENTS

### LIGHT SENTENCES

**Causing Death of a Child**

The *Times* (June 2) reports case of a matron of a children's home, indicted at the Dorset Assizes for causing the death of one child and neglecting others. She pleaded "Guilty" to neglect, and had been convicted of neglect once before.

Sentence: *Two months' imprisonment in the first division.*

### HEAVY SENTENCES

**Forging a Mess Receipt**

The *Times* (June 3) reports case of a mess steward, charged at the Dorset Assizes for forging a mess receipt. He had been twice convicted previously of forgery.

Sentence: *Three years' penal servitude.*

**Summarily Convicted**

The *Western Daily Mercury* (May 3) reports case of a father (heard in camera) charged at Ker-street Police Court, before Mr. Moon and Mr. Lapworth, with criminal assault on his daughter, aged two years and eight months. The charge was reduced to indecent assault.

Sentence: *Three months' imprisonment.*

**Committed for Trial**

The *Morning Advertiser* (June 27) reports case of a dressmaker charged before Mr. Denman at Marlborough Street Police Court with stealing 30s. from a lady's handbag in a ladies' lavatory. There were no previous convictions, and for the defence it was urged that when searched, the money was not found on the defendant, who also denied the charge on oath. The magistrate held it was a case for a jury to decide.

*Committed for trial.*

## WHERE PREVIOUS CONVICTIONS COUNT

We have sometimes been criticised for comparing, in our table of punishments, cases of theft or forgery, in which there are previous convictions, with cases of assault upon the person, in which no previous convictions are recorded. We have stated, in reply, that the contention does not hold good in our eyes because (1) cases of assault, especially of manslaughter, being far more serious in character, are not so likely to admit of previous convictions; (2) previous offences, for which sentences have been given and punishment suffered, should not be punished again in subsequent proceedings, whether for assault or theft; (3) that previous convictions, when they exist, are frequently not thought worth mentioning in cases of offence against the person, but are rarely omitted in reports of offences against property; (4) that where previous convictions do exist and are mentioned in parallel cases, this will not be found to influence the sentence equally in both instances.

**Where They Do Not Count**

The first comparison given above shows that our assumption, as stated in (4) is borne out in fact. Here we have two cases, side by side, both tried at the same Assizes, both involving previous convictions. Yet for neglecting children placed in her charge, and for even causing death in one instance, a matron gets off with a short term of the lightest kind of imprisonment, while a mess steward, for forging a signature and injuring no human life, is sentenced to three years of the hardest kind of punishment that can be given. It is true that there were two convictions in his case as against one in hers; but making full allowance for this, the discrepancy is so enormous as to leave no shadow of doubt as to the attitude of the court towards the respective values of life and property.

And until women count in the country, we do not think that this standard of values will ever be reversed.

**A Baby—or Thirty Shillings?**

Our second comparison reveals a still more serious state of things. Holding, as we do, that no case so terrible as that of injury inflicted by a man on his own child should be summarily dealt with, but should be sent to trial by jury, we are appalled still further by the fact that, in the Devonport case, even the maximum penalty for the reduced charge was not inflicted. As our readers know well, we do not advocate severe sentences for any class of crime, and we hold, further, that the form of punishment in a case like this one should rather involve the protection of society from the offender in future than his own punishment for an act that can only be regarded as insane. But if the law knows no other expression of its disapprobation than terms of imprisonment, it is preposterous that for a crime from the consequences of which (we are informed) the baby victim is still suffering in hospital, a man should endure no more opprobrium than is conveyed in a nominal sentence of three months' imprisonment, while a girl who on the slenderest evidence is accused of stealing thirty shillings is thought to be involved in a charge serious enough to demand its investigation by a jury in a higher court. We understand, further, that many letters sent to the newspapers on the subject of the Devonport case, which has outraged the women of the locality, were not published. This emphasises the necessity that exists for the maintenance of Suffrage organs like our own, which, in common with one or two public-spirited journals (to which we believe we may add on most occasions the *Western Daily Mercury*), do not fear to publish the truth.

## A CANON'S LETTER

In the course of a letter to the *Sunday Times* (June 4), appealing for funds for *two rescue homes for children*, Canon Newbolt writes as follows:—

"It is impossible to shut our eyes to the fact that there is a great and increasing spread of corruption among little children of an age which varies from five to fifteen.

"The nature of this corruption is two-fold:

"1. Poor little girls, not knowing what evil means, are assaulted by those who trade on their ignorance, and are thus morally injured and contaminated, with life poisoned at its very spring.

"2. Then, in too many cases, it is found that they themselves, partly from ignorance and partly from the evil which they have learned, become sources of contamination to others, and constitute a plague spot which the authorities in some cases feel constrained even to exclude from their schools.

"The statistics received from various rescue workers are such as would stagger those who do not know the urgency of the matter."

**An Opportunity Missed**

The rest of the Canon's letter is devoted to an appeal for £1,600 in order to start these two homes for injured and outraged little girls. He does not say a word with reference to the awfulness of the crime that makes such pathetic institutions necessary, except to attribute it mainly to the "ignorance" of the poor victims. He does not say a word of the responsibility of the men who are the real "source of contamination"—a term he applies only to the children. We cannot for one moment believe that Canon Newbolt does not feel as deeply as we do about facts which are indeed "staggering" to every sincere Christian. But why does he not intimate, when writing to the Press on the subject, that he has a full sense of the adult man's share in these increasing crimes (not excluding that of the police magistrate or judge who takes so light a view of them in the courts), instead of conveying the impression (we hope and believe a false one) that he regards such offences as a necessary evil which little girls aged from five to fifteen are unfortunately not strong enough to resist?

## WOMEN AND THE IRISH SETTLEMENT

The Executive Committee of the Irishwomen's Suffrage Federation (29, South Anne Street, Dublin), representing twenty-seven Societies, have sent a letter to Mr. Lloyd George, representing "the desirability of including women as members of any Council or Commission which may be set up in Ireland for the period of the war."

The letter proceeds thus:—

"The Committee would point out that as Irishwomen have not possessed political power in the past their inclusion would bring an entirely new element into the government of Ireland, and this they believe to be a matter of great importance in the present crisis. The Committee beg to remind you that since the outbreak of war Irishwomen have taken their full share of work for the Empire. They are willing and eager to give their contribution towards the better governing of Ireland, and they trust that such an opportunity as that which now presents itself will not be denied to them."

**A Resolution**

The following resolution, passed by the Irish Women's Franchise League, has been sent to the Prime Minister, Mr. Lloyd George, and the leaders of the political Parties:—

"That no reform of Irish Government can be considered acceptable or permanent by Irish suffragists which does not include votes for Irish women on the same terms as Irish men, and in the event of Ulster, or a portion of it, being excluded from any Home Rule scheme, we demand that the women of Ulster (or of any such excluded portion) should be consulted equally with the men as to the form of government which they prefer. We demand, furthermore, that women shall be directly represented on any advisory council or other political machinery which may be set up in Ireland."

**MR. REDMOND IN DUBLIN**

**(From an Eye-witness)**

Mr. Redmond visited Dublin to consult only his colleagues in the Party, and refused the proffered counsel and advice of an important section of the people—namely, the women. A party of well-known Suffragists applied for an interview with Mr. Redmond at the Mansion House, and, receiving no reply, waited for two and a half hours until the Conference was over. There was little public interest shown, and few people were about. When the time arrived for Mr. Redmond to leave, the police, of whom there were considerable numbers, ordered the women off. They naturally refused to go, and some time was spent in threats and entreaties from the police to the women, while Mr. Redmond was held a prisoner. Then the police began pushing and dragging several women along the road. This, of course, caused a crowd to grow, and there was a disorderly scene, as usual due entirely to the police, who were turning absolutely unoffending persons from a street open to the public because they were women.

Mr. Redmond was given to understand, however, that no settlement which leaves Irishwomen as outlaws will secure peace in Ireland.

**MR. SHEEHY SKEFFINGTON**

The following resolution was passed by the Executive of the Irishwomen's Reform League at their first meeting after the death of Mr. Sheehy Skeffington, the well-known Suffragist:—

"That on behalf of the Irishwomen's Reform League we wish to express our sense of the very serious loss sustained by the Women's Suffrage movement in Ireland through the death of Mr. Francis Sheehy Skeffington, who filled a unique place in Irish public life by his courageous championship of the women's cause and his disinterested devotion to its furtherance; and that we tender Mrs. Sheehy Skeffington our heartfelt sympathy in her bereavement."

## PRESS OPINI[ON]

**Registration Reform or Fran[chise]**

The main point is that registra[tion] reforms or Reform Bills (call the[m] what you please) cannot be a standing item in our politics. When once this subject is dealt with, no one wishes to touch it again for several years at least. That means that any postponement now is necessarily a long postponement. If we mean within any measurable period to enfranchise women, the only handsome way to do it, and, indeed, the only way compatible with entire sincerity, is to do it in time to enable them to vote at the next election. A failure to do it now will mean that all our politics will be confused for the next five years by a distracting agitation, and women, when they do come in, will enter, not in a mood of good comradeship and patriotic unity, but after the embitterment of a needlessly protracted struggle. . . . The vote has become more than ever an urgent domestic question, while to the nation has come the will to solve it generously and promptly.—**Nation (May 27).**

**Soldiers and Women**

For ourselves, we are far from being in love with the proposal to make military service alone a qualification for the vote. . . . But what seems to us clear is that the immense voluntary effort of the women is at least as worthy of recognition as is that of t[he] men, and that to invite and acc[ept] their services as citizens in all m[atters] civic labour and then refuse them th[e] same recognition of citizenship as is freely accorded to their brothers would be a shocking example of a poor and peddling spirit. —**Manchester Guardian, (June 19.)**

**Votes for Men AND women!**

An extension of the franchise is an extension of the franchise, whatever it is called: and when one sex or class is excluded altogether from the franchise, an extension to the more favoured sex or class is an actual positive increase in the disability of the sex or class excluded. For this [reason], passionately as we are attached to the idea of manhood suffrage, we feel obliged to oppose it if it c[omes] ... unacompanied by the long-overdue recognition of the rights of women. We believe that, at this stage, such a "revision of the register" as the Government are suspected of contemplating would put off the enfranchisement of women for years, and would thus be an insult, not merely to women, but to that principle of democracy in which we all believe.—**Herald (June 17).**

**The Old Complication**

The agitation in favour of "votes for women" is likely still further to complicate the problem with which the Local Government Board is confronted in attempting to frame a new register on equitable lines. — **Nottingham Guardian (May 31).**

**At Last!**

There is reason to believe that the time is not far distant when women's political rights shall be conceded with general consent. We are convinced that a measure enfranchising women could be carried now, and that it would have as smooth and rapid a passage as the Summer Time (Daylight Saving) Bill has had. — **Blackburn Weekly Telegraph (May 20).**

## KEIR HARDIE MEMORIAL

For the sake of the many Suffragists who would like to show respect to the memory of a man who always advocated their cause, in and out of Parliament, who stood up alone amid the jeers of his fellow M.P.'s to protest against the outrage of forcible feeding, we are glad to bring to the notice of our readers a Keir Hardie Memorial Fund (chairman, Mr. F. W. Jowett, M.P.), part of which, when raised, will be devoted to the erection of some monument, and part set aside to be held in trust for his family. For Keir Hardie died a poor man—a fact that will surprise no one who knows how persistently he set principle before personal advantage. Donations should be addressed to the Secretary of the Fund, Mr. Francis Johnson, St. Bride's House, Salisbury Square, E.C.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

MEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE. —Mrs. Despard's Birthday, Caxton Hall, Westminster, Thursday, July 6, 7 to 9.30 p.m. Songs, dances, presentation of Birthday Gift to the League, and short speeches by Mrs. Despard, Miss Nina Boyle, Miss Munro, Mrs. Schofield Coates, Mrs. Tanner, and Mrs. Zangwill. Tickets (including refreshments), 1s., from the W.F.L. Office, 144, High Holborn, W.C.

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(near Westminster Hospital), on

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*Speakers:*

***Mrs. DESPARD, Mrs. PETHICK LAWRENCE, Mr. HENRY W. NEVINSON, Miss SYLVIA PANKHURST, Mr. GEORGE LANSBURY, Mr. J. H. THOMAS*** (engagements permitting), ***and others.***

Tickets—**2/-, 1/-, 6d.**—from United Suffragists (27, Chancery Lane, W.C.), or the International Suffrage Shop (5, Duke Street, Adelphi, W.C.), or Miss D. Pethick (39, Meadway Court, Golder's Green, N.W.).

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